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APRIL – 1977

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APRIL – 1977 VOL. XXXIII – NO. 4

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Notice of Annual Meeting of the HDMS 31

The official bulletin
for The Hampden District
of The Massachusetts
Medical Society.
Founded in 1942 by
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William A. R. Chapin, M.D.

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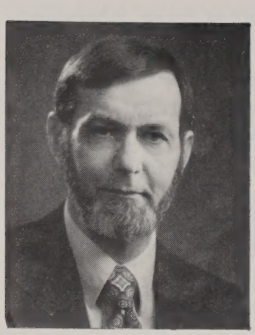

Bruce B. Stoler, M.D.

Your President's Page

"Our Last Best Hope"

Over the years many of you have heard me speak of my natural aversion to helping to write rules for those who would regulate us. It just goes against the grain, like having to cut the willow stick for one's own licking. Many disagreed with me and felt that it was better to write one's own rules than to have them written for us by others. Accordingly, they labored long and hard to come up with reasonable metric criteria for judging the quality, cost and necessity of medical care for use by the PSRO, the self-acclaimed "last best hope" for physicians. And so the PSRO "Cook Books" were written and are now the property of the federal government. In so doing, doctors tacitly agreed on standards by which they should be judged by the medical clerks, the media and the courts.

Since only quantitative aspects of medical care allow a physician to be measured by PSRO standards, there is no longer the old emphasis on the intimate, the ethical and the intuitive characteristics of the doctor-patient relationship which most recognize as the physician's professionalism. But when the physician's mantle of professionalism is stripped away, he is reduced to the role of technician. Either he follows the "rules" or he is challenged. Challenged by those who are not capable of what he can do, on the basis of a violation of "rules" that could not have been written without his cooperation! An excellent review of the change in the public's perception of the physician since World War II is contained in the article by Dr. Emil P. Taxay in the February 3, 1977 issue of the New England Journal. It should be read in its entirety by every member.

The continuing governmental attacks on professionalism are currently exemplified by the challenges to the AMA Code of Ethics by the FTC on "restraint of trade" grounds. Formerly the attack was on relative value scales. In the past two years alone the FTC has issued more than 70 subpoenas to organized medicine. At present the AMA is continuing to provide physicians with both "guns"—legal advocacy of the rights of physicians in the courts—and "butter"—scientific programming, programs

(OVER)

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to assure and continue to improve the quality of medical care, planning leadership and a whole host of other national programs and regional workshops. But soon one or the other must yield or dues must continue to rise. It may well be the strategy of government to force a continuing waste of AMA revenue for "guns" in the hope that, as dues are forced up, more and more physicians will drop out, eventually reaching the point where the AMA no longer represents a majority of practicing physicians. At that point, and only then, government can afford to ignore the voice of organized medicine as non-representative and to disband the PSROs.

Our last best hope is not the PSRO! It is to be found only in a strong, voluntary, organized medical society, strong in both membership and financial resources. If you have dropped your AMA membership, renew it now! If you have never joined, do it now! Simply call 736-7301 and tell Mrs. Purdy or Mrs. Weiss to add your name to the roster. And help your Membership Committee to persuade your colleagues to do the same!

Bruce B. Stoler, M.D.
HDMS President '76-'77

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:

CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTANCE IN JOINING THE HAMPDEN DISTRICT AND/OR USE THE ABBREVIATED APPLICATION FORM.

THANK YOU

HDMS – Membership Committee

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John J. Flahive
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Setrag A. Zacarian
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Medical School _____ Degree _____

Specialty _____ Teaching appointments _____

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Signature _____

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Notice to Readers

At its annual meeting, The Editorial Board of your *Hampden Hippocrat* decided to try and increase membership comment and opinion and to determine ways in which reader appeal and response can be furthered. Of the many ideas and proposals discussed, the following seemed the most appropriate.

1) Offer to print complaints about physicians from their patients, so that all physicians might measure themselves against the complaints and, if necessary, correct their images or faults. Anonymity will be maintained—the object being to seek self improvement and not condemnation. The Mediation Committee and/or a patient will be the source of the lesson.

2) Physicians are often inhibited from speaking out over an issue or a personal or group injustice because they cannot afford to have their names recorded by their adversaries; often it is just plain not convenient. The section of the Hippocrat—Letters to the Editor—is that portion of the bulletin in which a correspondent may request that her or his name not be published. The editorial board alone will be privy to this information. Therefore, if you, our readers, have a gripe but do not care to have your name associated with your written complaint, use this section of your bulletin.

3) Although the editorial board is constantly seeking written opinion from all responsible members of the community, no policy exists against a HDMS member from requesting a non-member to submit an article, guest editorial or letter to the editor. Non-member readers of this bulletin are also free to submit material to the editorial board for review and possible publication. The Hampden Hippocrat is not a closed publication.

4) To assist in the fight to contain costs of American Medicine, the editorial board is willing to publish annotated bills from patients who have recently been hospitalized, who have "done" a clinic or outpatient facility or who have seen their physician. The board is especially interested in bills which reflect charges from the ancillary services.

5) All medical bulletins are enhanced by photography and by copies of the arts as interpreted by their members. Therefore all HDMS readers are invited to submit to the editorial board black and white copy of their work.

6) The editorial board now requests that the readers assist it to determine whether a policy change would increase the numbers of articles submitted for publication. Please write or telephone your opinions to a member of the board on the following issues:

a) Should all editorials always give the name of the author?
b) Should all regular or featured articles always carry the byline of the author?
c) Should the 'Letter to the Editor' section continue to omit (upon request) the name of the writer?

Thank you for your cooperation to make your bulletin, *The Hampden Hippocrat* a better and wider read integral part of American Medicine.

The editor-in-chief

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Highlights of the

Executive Committee

March 15, 1977

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, March 15, 1977 in the Conference Room of the HDMS.

Present were Drs. Walthall, Sachsse, Stoler, Moore, Bloom, Verrilli, Magill, Smith, Remsberg, Lynn, Abrams and Mrs. Purdy.

The minutes of the February 22, 1977 Executive Committee meeting were read and approved as amended.

Correspondence

A letter from Dr. Mozden was read regarding recording of CME credits. It was decided to write MMS about the method to be used for recording and documenting CME credits. Each physician will keep record of his credits and HDMS will not do this.

Mrs. Purdy read a letter from Dr. Burden, President of the MMS thanking the society for its prompt action on thymus and head, neck radiation of infants.

After reading a letter from the Council on Aging, the committee decided that a subcommittee be assigned to study the feasibility of house calls. Dr. Abrams is chairman with Drs. Verrilli, Lynn and Teale on the committee. They will coordinate with the VNA and Home Care Corporation.

Dr. Verrilli reported on the Leadership Conference held in Chicago in January. This report is printed in the March issue of the Hampden Hippocrat.

Dr. Smith reported that Dr. Stoddard had indicated that a study should be done on the Members Insurance and possibly have a district rather than a state program. No motion was made or action taken at this time.

Dr. Mosig sent a copy of a letter he sent to the Committee on Hospital Relations of the AMA about the Garcia vs. Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. This was informational and Dr. Mosig will be thanked and asked if he would keep the committee informed if he receives a reply.

Dr. Bloom discussed the Dr. & Mrs. Max Millman Scholarship Fund. Three thousand dollars was received for the fund from Mrs. Millman's estate. A certificate will be made for Attorney Novak who has worked to establish the fund legally.

Old Business

The responses of the Wing Memorial and Providence Hospitals to the question of screening clinics were read. The replies of Noble and Mercy Hospitals had previously been noted. This item of business will be on the agenda again for the April meeting, with the hope that more local hospitals will have responded to the questions asked of them.

(OVER)

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Dr. Smith distributed copies of a resolution to MMS regarding Medicaid Second Surgical opinion. This resolution will be presented by Dr. LaMarche to the Committee on Foundations of the MMS. It was moved, seconded and approved to support in principle this resolution.

Letters were read from Baystate Medical Center and Holyoke Hospital responding to inquiries about radiation therapy to persons who had head and neck radiation therapy years ago; both indicated that they concur with the program.

The answer by Dr. Rosner, President of the Springfield Academy of Medicine to an HDMS letter, was read. A reply questionnaire card will be sent to all Academy members with the following questions:

1. Do you favor the possibility of amalgamation of the Academy with the HDMS.
   _____ yes _____ no
2. If so, would you be in favor of sharing expenses with the HDMS for evaluation of this?
   _____ yes _____ no

HDMS should be notified by April 15th.

Dr. Moore read a letter from Attorney Reardon stating that "each member is personally responsible for his dues."

Dr. Stoler reported that the meeting, to be held with district presidents, was postponed until March 21st.

Mrs. Purdy reported the following:

1. Ch. 57 under direction of Mark Mills will have a physician on at least monthly. This will start on March 25th with Dr. Kirkwood talking about the cat scanner.

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2. Dr. Gephart the EVP of the MMS died and announcement was made about the funeral arrangements.

3. The Practice Management course will probably be held on April 17th if the information can be gathered by that date.

4. The release by MMS on the ruling about Medicaid patients will be mailed out to all physicians in the state on the 16th.

5. The HEW release to news media on the listing of physicians paid high Medicare payments was in the news today.

Dr. Bloom reported on the rebuttal to Mr. William Putnam's Special Report which he made at Ch. 22 and was broadcast on Friday, March 4, 1977. Dr. Bloom suggested that a questionnaire be sent to all members asking if they made house calls on their own patients. The committee voted to insert this into the forth coming newsletter.

New Business

Committee reports for approval for the April issue of the HH were presented and approved.

Dr. Abrams spoke for the Lung Association asking if the HDMS would aid the Lung Association with education to school children against smoking. This was voted unanimously in the affirmative by the committee.

Dr. Stoler asked if the June Executive Committee meeting could be changed from the 14th to another date as Mrs. Purdy has to attend a Seminar prior to the meeting in San Francisco. It was decided to hold the Meeting on Wednesday, June 8th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 P.M.

Submitted by,
Viv Purdy

The Page of the Auxiliary to the HDMS

March 1977

At the March 15 board meeting Mrs. Anthony Lovell, Health Careers Chairwoman, presented a program concerning the Springfield Science Museum's proposed Health Room. The Board was very enthusiastic about this project and felt that we should seriously consider Auxiliary involvement. Mr. Glen Ives, Director of the Science Museum will speak at the board meeting on April 5.

A master plan has been drawn up for the Museum. A major part of this plan is a large hall of health on the second floor with numerous bilingual exhibits. The Trustees of the Museum and Mr. Ives feel the first step in setting up this hall would be to purchase and install a transparent anatomical mannequin (similar to the one at the Boston Science Museum) in a small theater-like enclosure. The model is an adult female. Explanatory lectures (available in many languages) geared to various age groups would accompany synchronized lighting of the individual organs. The model would be installed on a revolving stage. This would allow the area to be utilized for films and lectures concerning health when the model was not in use. The cost is currently under $60,000 for both the model installed and the theater.

The Museum is looking to us for help with this project due to our history of assisting in worthwhile community health projects.

In the past this auxiliary has offered you In Memorium cards, from AMAERF, to give when the occasion arose. It is the decision of this Board to offer you our own In Memorium cards with the donation given to Health Careers Scholarship Fund. Please contact Pat Nenninger 567-1913.

The bus trip to Cohoes Mfg. Co. was a sell out. Wenda Restall deserves our thanks for making this outing a success.

At this writing over 300 tickets have been sold to the New Black Eagle Jazz Band Concert. Watch for our report next month.

A REMINDER: The child abuse and neglect program organized by Ginny Logac will be held April 28 from 7 to 9 pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Sumner Ave., Springfield. The program is free and open to the public.

Patricia Nenninger
(Mrs. Robert)

Addendum: In the March issue, the Auxiliary announced a lecture by Dr. Feingold in Hartford on March 22nd. This was informational and did not indicate the endorsement by the Auxiliary of Dr. Feingold's theories.

P.N.

Ernest A. Byron, Jr.

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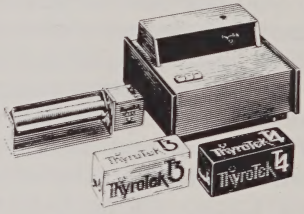

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Annual Report — Executive Committee

Your Executive Committee met regularly each month except July and August with excellent attendance enjoyed throughout the year. Its activities have been well summarized for your information in the Hampden Hippocrat on a monthly basis by Doctors Stoddard and Walthall and Mrs. Purdy. It may not be out of place in an annual report, however, to pull together and re-emphasize for the membership some important policies implemented by this activist committee during my term of office on behalf of the membership.

During the 1976-77 session, your Executive Committee:

1) Adopted and submitted to the M.M.S. Council, the Hampden Resolution mandating legal action to break certain provisions of the Blue Shield Participating Physician's Agreement;
2) Adopted guidelines for the Springfield Yellow Pages specialty listings modeled after those of the Milwaukee Medical Society;
3) Actively protested by letter and telegram the 30% reduction in Medicaid reimbursement, to both legislative and executive branches of the state and federal government;
4) Organized and approved the composition of an ad hoc Committee on Membership to bring the Society to the non-member physicians of the District;
5) Commissioned and approved a table of organization and job descriptions for the Executive Secretary and clerk of the H.D.M.S.;
6) Approved and presented to the membership By-Laws amendments to enlarge the Mediation Committee, to change the responsibilities of the Peer Review Committee so as to emphasize concern with the impaired physician, and to bring the Hampden Hippocrat more closely into the committee structure of the H.D.M.S. by creation of a Publications Committee for its supervision;
7) Directed the Public Relations Committee to develop a new statement of purpose for the Society, to work with W.W.L.P. (Channel 22) in supervising a public information medical television program to be aired on a weekly basis, and to coordinate a close working relationship between the news media and the H.D.M.S.;
8) Approved and implemented the mechanics for closer relationships between the H.D.M.S. and the P.S.R.O. and H.S.A. for Region One;

(OVER)

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9) Received from component committees, approved and forwarded to the M.M.S. for action, formal resolutions favoring equality of membership application requirements for foreign medical graduates, favoring study of unified membership in M.M.S. and A.M.A., and favoring M.M.S. leadership in an integrated statewide program for finding and rehabilitating impaired physicians;
10) Developed and set in motion a program for approval of certain hospital diagnostic screening programs provided that patients discovered to require treatment are given the option to return their own physician or are informed that names of physicians with expertise in such treatment are available by contacting the H.D.M.S.;
11) Adopted and promulgated to involved hospitals and physicians within the District a policy statement favoring record-search and location of patients who have received head or neck radiation as pre-adolescents in order to inform each such patient of the need for ongoing thyroid surveillance;
12) Approved a contract which permitted (as a demonstration project) evaluation of the C.M.E. services offered by the Springfield Academy of Medicine to the H.D.M.S.—at its Annual Meeting in April, and approved continuing study of methods by which the Academy might be brought in under the H.D.M.S. umbrella if a poll of the Academy's membership favors this;

In addition, the Executive Committee carried out routine duties with respect to resolving, or forwarding to M.M.S., certain membership complaints, responding to inquiries from M.M.S., A.M.A. and multiple state and local agencies and individuals, as well as organizing and approving a prospective budget for 1977-78.

The Executive Committee particularly wishes to congratulate and to thank for help and advice during this year the Chairman of all standing committees; Dr. James Fitzpatrick, Chairman of the adhoc Springfield Academy of Medicine Study Committee; Dr. Franco Navazio, Chairman of the adhoc Membership Committee; Dr. Howard Simpson, Chairman of the adhoc Publications Study Committee; the Executive Committee of the Springfield Academy of Medicine; Mrs. Carol Yorzyk, President of the Hampden District Auxiliary; Dr. Walter Tauber, self-appointed spokesman for Medicaid providers; Dr. James Allen, Executive Councilor of H.D.M.S.; Dr. John Ayres, Springfield's Commissioner of Health; Dr. Walton Stevens, Editor-in-Chief of the Hippocrat; Mr. Robert McClellan, President of the Valley Press Club; Mr. Charles Everett, Executive Director of the Health Care Foundation of Western Massachusetts; Mrs. Vivian Purdy, our Executive Secretary and Mrs. Fran Weiss, her assistant.

Bruce B. Stoler, M.D.
Chairperson, Executive Committee

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Report . . . Peer Review Committee, 1976-1977

The Peer Review Committee was given a new challenge by President Bruce Stoler: to study the problem of the impaired physician, and to make appropriate recommendations in response to the problem.

The Peer Review Committee met a number of times in 1976 and after study of a large volume of material gathered from various organizations including the American Medical Association, a decision was made to send the following resolution to the Massachusetts Medical Society after it has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Hampden District Medical Society:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts Medical Society act through the State Legislature to establish itself as an agent of the State Board of Registration in Medicine to implement an effective program to find and rehabilitate the impaired physician.

Further, that an effective program should:

1. Offer the best treatment available,
2. Reintegrate the rehabiliated physician into practice after competence had been demonstrated.

The Peer Review Committee agreed that the overall charge of the program of rehabilitation of the impaired physician should be under State Medical Society direction and that local district medical societies would help to implement details of the state program.

On February 4, 1977, the Chairman traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for a conference on the impaired physician to be held February 4 through February 6. The program was sponsored by the American Medical Association. It was the second national meeting on this subject in three years. The three days were spent in open forum discussion and workshops devoted to defining the problem, eliciting techniques for early detection, intervention, and rehabilitation.

The Chairman carried away many ideas which can be utilized by The Peer Review Committee once the program has been formalized by The Massachusetts Medical Society.

Rocco A. Verrilli, M.D.
Chairperson

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Report of the Legislative Committee 1976 - 1977

This year the work of the legislative committee began rather abruptly, scarcely after the chairman had been appointed and before the full committee had been selected. This abrupt beginning was brought about by the governor's 1976-1977 state fiscal year budget which was to begin on July 1, 1976. In spite of many personal phone calls, letters to the legislators and to the governor himself, the budget was finally passed and signed on July 1, 1976. We were immediately faced with a law that was not only unfair, unjust and unworkable, but also very confusing and almost impossible to implement. No one seemed to understand the section concerning the 30% reduction in rates for Medicaid services. Almost immediately, the Health Care committee of the state legislature began work on the first of many amendments to this law. It has been the single most important piece of legislation which has plagued us all during this past year and will no doubt continue to do so in the future. At the present time, the section concerning mandatory second surgical opinions is being implemented by the Department of Public Welfare in the form of a consultation program for elective surgery. The plan calls for the five Health Care Foundations in the state to act as agents providing the consultation services. A contract has already been signed by the Bay State (Boston area) Health Care Foundation and the Department of Public Welfare. The Health Care Foundation of Western Massachusetts has formally rejected the Department of Public Welfare's plan.

On September 22, 1976, the Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Legislation held its fall meeting at the Harvard Club in Boston. The committee reviewed and discussed the status of several bills pending in both the House and the Senate. Needless to say, the most important bill was the Hospital Costs Control Bill which included the sections pertaining to Medicaid. The Health Care committee amendment to the law had called for a restoration of the 30% reduction in rates imposed by the administration. A late administrative provision eliminated the 30% reduction on primary care medical services only. Primary care was defined as care in an office setting. Therefore the 30% reduction in rates would remain in force for hospital visits and surgical procedures, while office visits would

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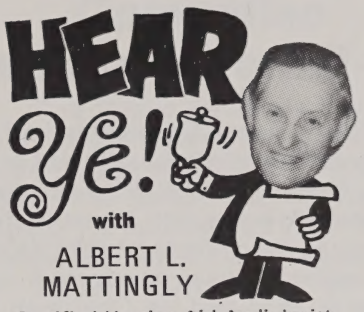
be paid at the rate being paid before the governor imposed the 30% reduction.

On October 18, 1976, the Hampden District Legislative committee held its first meeting. This was purely an organizational meeting wherein we discussed our roles and our goals. On January 25, 1977, we held a pre-legislative meeting in which discussion centered on the pending State legislation pertaining to health care. The winter meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society committee on legislation was held on February 2, 1977 at the Harvard Club and on February 10, 1977, a post-legislative meeting was held by the Hampden District legislative committee in the conference room at district headquarters. We thoroughly discussed the more important bills concerning health care and chose ten which we as a committee, on your behalf, will support or oppose formally in writing to our district legislators.

We strongly urge each of you to review the list of pending bills printed in the March issue of the Hippocrat. If there are any proposed bills which you strongly oppose or support, remember that you can obtain the full text (usually one or two printed pages) by contacting any legislator in our district. Read the text, discuss it, and especially, write to our legislators telling them precisely why you oppose or support any pending legislation. If we expect these people to do a good job on our behalf, it behooves us to supply them with intelligent information. Generally they are very attentive and sensitive to informative letters. You can rest assured that our opponents are very aware of this and are very active in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Miller, M.D.
Chairperson



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STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS (Cont.)

By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws Committee had a busy year but never actually met as a body. Every by-law change seemed to need urgent action to make the Hippocrat dead line for publication. All business was conducted by phone or mail and, as Chairman, I wish to thank Mrs. Purdy for getting out all the correspondence. The Board of Editors is now the Committee on Publications and this section has been completely revised. The Peer Review Committee has been restructured and the original mission changed. A resolution to ban smoking at all meetings was turned down in favor of a less traumatic approach to the problem.

I wish to thank the members of the committee for their help and understanding.

Harry N. Memery, M.D.
Chairperson

Public Health

The Public Health Committee did not meet at all this year, so therefore there is nothing to report.

Anthony Lovell, M.D.
Chairperson

Medico-Religious Committee

The Medico-Religious Committee met with Drs. Dyck and Professor Curran, members of the Kennedy Interfaculty Medical Ethics program at Harvard on February 15, 1977. Many of the problems that concerned the members of the committee were presented and discussed.

Later that evening Drs. Dyck and Professor Curran held a symposium on the "Ethical Dilemmas in Medical Care" before the entire membership present.

George J. Bronos, M.D.
Chairperson

Blue Shield Committee

There were no formal meetings held by Blue Shield Committee. One problem case with Blue Shield was handled by the chairperson by telephone calls to appropriate authorities.

Kulin M. Shah, M.D.
Chairperson

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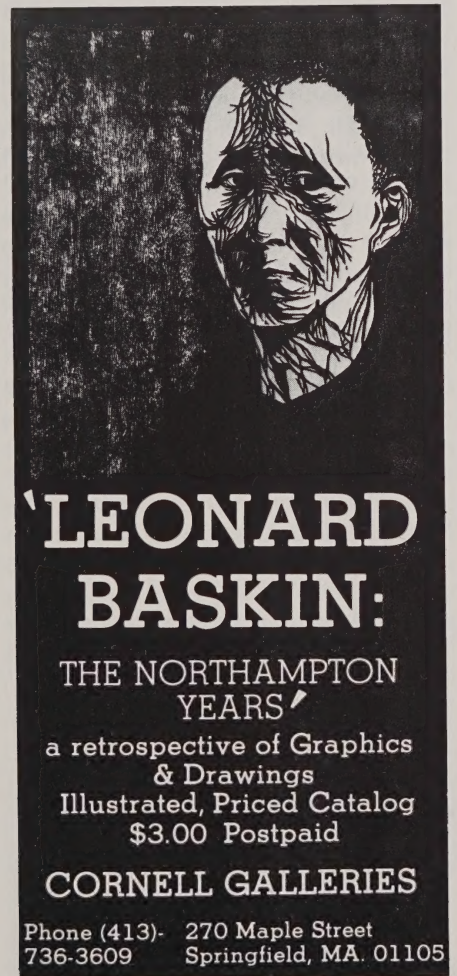
Mediation Committee

The Mediation Committee has met monthly during the past year and considered thirty cases thus far this year. Two cases were sent to MMS Committee on Ethics and Discipline.

I wish to thank each member of the committee for his faithful attendance and excellent judgment of each and every complaint.

The committee membership consists of Drs. Blake, Epstein, Lynn, McHugh, Nero, Cassidy, Carpenter and Rich.

Setrag A. Zacarian, M.D.
Chairperson



Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee has been active throughout the year, chiefly in its contacts with the television, radio and newspaper media. We participated in the Valley Press Club Media Day program held in October 1976. This led to a meeting of representatives from the various media plus hospital administrators from the area hospitals, representatives from PSRO and Health Care Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and from the Health Planning Council. This meeting led to another smaller session chaired by the President of the Valley Press Club. In this smaller session, interchange of ideas and reactions were more readily accomplished.

It is hoped that in our contacts with the media and health care facilities we will have a better understanding of our mutual problems in providing health care and useful information to the community.

Bernard Bloom, M.D.
Chairperson

Auxiliary to the Hampden District Medical Society

The Auxiliary to the HDMS has nothing to report.

John F. Griffin, M.D.
Chairperson

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee distributed funds to eleven worthy applicants in October of 1976. Applications are now being received for 1977-1978.

William B. Coen, M.D.

The Dr. Max Millman Memorial Scholarship Fund

After the death of Mrs. Max Millman the Dr. Max Millman Memorial Scholarship Fund was renamed the Dr. & Mrs. Max Millman Scholarship Fund. Twenty-five thousand dollars has been placed in Certificate Savings for a five year period and Attorney Novak has legally prepared the fund to become a student loan program.

William B. Coen, M.D.
Chairperson

Ad Hoc Committee for New Membership

As Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee for "new membership," I can report that in 1976 appropriate plans were outlined so as to enhance the practical values, the authority, and the visibility of our society.

A number of means were discussed and outlined so as to increase the interest of new prospective candidates, not solely to become members, but actually turn into active participants into many of our ever growing responsible tasks.

In the coming year the fruits of this initial work will unquestionably mature. A last word for each of our colleagues who will be reading these lines: "If you know of any physician, friend or associate who is not a member of our Society, act STAT. Remind him that the Hampden District Medical Society is indeed his group; the one where he has to belong, the one that will never let him down, and the one that will preserve and defend his rights."

Franco Navazio, M.D.
Chairperson

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Annual Report of the Committee of the Hampden Hippocrat

Administrative Year 1976 - 1977

Change has again occurred for the *Hampden Hippocrat* during the administrative year of Dr. Bruce B. Stoler. The associate editorial staff is down to eight from its previous high of ten. Resignations were accepted from Drs. Cox, Schwendenmann and Zacarian and Dr. Roberta Berrien has been added to its staff. The editorial board has otherwise remained unchanged. The Secretary & Business Manager, Dr. Greenspan, reported at the annual meeting—24 March 1977—that the publication has maintained a positive balance in its financial affairs and that there has been some reorganization of personnel under his guidance. These changes are reflected in the masthead. Room for five additional associate editors exists and recruitment continues.

The most significant change that has occurred is that of the Society's approval of a *Publications Committee.* This action will bring the Hippocrat into current, acceptable practice of other bulletins and journals associated with medical societies. Indeed, the Publications Committee met with the editorial board for the first time at the annual meeting and delineation of responsibilities of each was discussed. New guidelines of policy will be formulated for the editorial board.

A second significant possible change was presented by Dr. Simpson (as chairperson of the Publication Committee) to the effect that contact will be made to determine if the three other district medical societies in western Massachusetts would be interested in joining with the Hampden District in publication of a four district bulletin. This would enlarge the scope and readership of the Hippocrat.

There has been little verbal or written response to the gradual change in the format of the Hippocrat and the "sounding board" function of the bulletin has not been used enough by the membership. The entire editorial board is looking forward to assisting the incoming administration of 1977-1978 and it is appreciative of the opportunity it has had to serve the outgoing administration of Dr. Stoler. All in all, his administration was good, sound and active.

Respectfully submitted,

Walton E. Stevens, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief

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A Rebuttal to Mr. Putnam's Special T.V. Report

By Bernard Bloom, M.D.

In a recent Special Report, Mr. William Putnam, enlarged on the growing prospects of socialized medicine replacing our present system of health care. He intimated that perhaps it wasn't too bad in places like England where patients are forced to wait six months to two years to enter the hospital for an elective operation or perhaps wait 2-4 hours in crowded waiting rooms to see the doctor. While I am not distressed at the prospects of socialism as Mr. Putnam infers all physicians are, nonetheless, we were sufficiently incensed at many of his erroneous statements and half-truths to welcome this opportunity to reply on behalf of the physicians in our community.

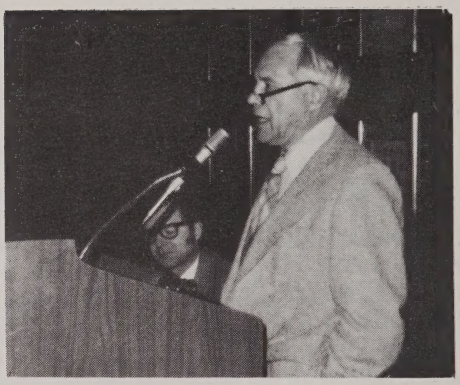
Obviously he has not kept up with the changing times. Physicians are not *all* off on Wednesday afternoon. Since about 50% of physicians practice in groups and associations, days off are staggered. Some members of the group are always available. Solo practitioners may have a day off with coverage by another physician on almost any day of the week. Wednesday is no longer sacred. The unavailability of doctors to make house calls was noted. As is known by you, the patients of these doctors, there are many physicians willing to make necessary house calls. The Hampden District Medical Society office will be glad to furnish names of physicians who do. Physicians have left the horse and buggy days of medicine. House calls are not nearly as efficient as treatment in the office or hospital emergency rooms where sophisticated equipment is available.

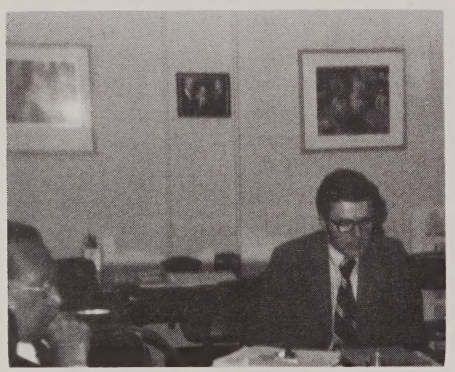
Mr. Putnam would see to it that all doctor's offices maintain an adequate phone answering service. Not only do 95% of physicians have answering services but many carry beepers in their pockets so that they may respond within minutes to an emergency call. He would not permit the doctors to be among "the most prosperous members of our society". Perhaps he would restrict businessmen, lawyers, engineers, architects, and even television station owners from this so called prosperous group. He also accuses the medical profession of restricting entry into the field of medicine. Does he know that medical graduates have doubled from 7,000 per year to 14,000 per year in the past twenty-five years and that concern now has been expressed about an excess number of physicians nationwide? Nationwide there are some problems with mal-distribution and disproportionate numbers of specialists when compared to primary care physicians, but in total numbers the country seems to have plenty of physicians.

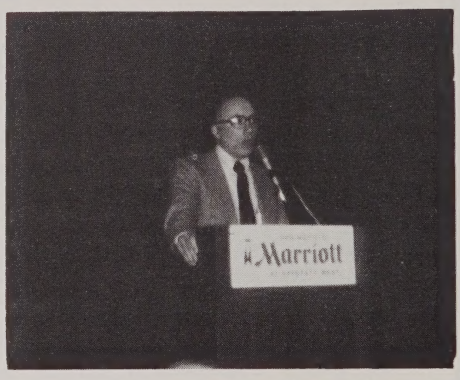
The thought occurred to me that instead of harrassing the hardworking conscientious physician, would it not be time better spent speaking about urgent health problems?

Health scientists now feel that about 70% of medical problems are due to self induced factors such as poor nutrition, including obesity, lack of exercise, tobacco smoking, alcoholism, drug-abuse and so on. These are the factors we must work on together. Disregard of these health hazards leads to irreparable bodily injury that no physician can heal.

Bernard Bloom, M.D.
Chairperson, Public Relations Committee







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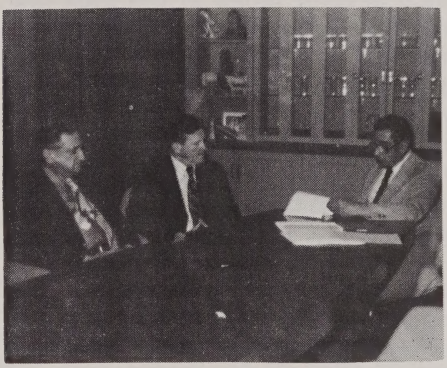

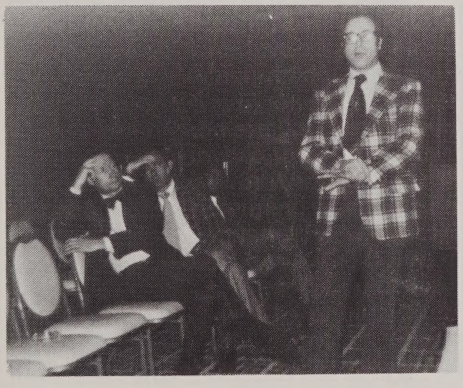

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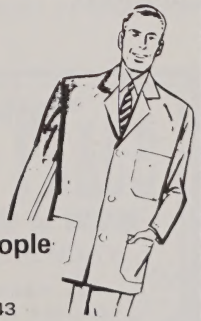

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Letters to the Editor

17 March '77

Dear Sir:

It is most disturbing to me as a gynecologist to have a patient return to my office with an unwanted pregnancy requesting an abortion after she has been in the hospital for treatment of a non-gynecological condition. I have had this experience several times in the past few months. Each of these patients told me that her pill-cycle had been interrupted because her internist (or other attending physician) had not ordered birth control pills during her hospital stay. On her return home she was too mixed up to resume the routine.

Physicians treating young female patients in hospitals must be made aware that many young women are taking birth control pills. Physicians must also be aware of the fact that most women will not think to tell this to the doctor in what, to them, is a crisis situation. The admitting physician must make it part of his history taking to determine whether his/her female hospital patient is on birth control pills. In the absence of any contraindication, he/she should order this medication through the hospital stay. If the physician considers it medically inappropriate to have the patient continue on hormonal contraception, it is imperative that alternate contraceptive counselling be provided.

Very truly yours,

Walter F. Tauber, M.D.

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CLINICAL CARDIOLOGY. Gazes, P. C. Year Book Medical Publishers. Chicago. 1975.

In his preface, the author of this book states that the volume is presented as a ready reference for the average physician who finds it virtually impossible to read the voluminous literature on cardiology that is published today. In his first chapter he discusses the highlights of the cardiac examination in a very brief manner. In an equally brief manner the essential points of value of the roentgenogram, electrocardiogram, vectocardiogram, echogram and cardioangiogram are presented. A second chapter on diagnostic clues is followed by a chapter on electrocardiography. The various forms of heart disease are treated in an abbreviated albeit not always in adequate fashion. The chapter on coronary disease occupies, probably rightfully so, 54 pages or one sixth of the text. For the space devoted to it, the management of unstable angina is well handled both from a medical and surgical standpoint.

It is not difficult to be critical of a volume of this nature. Without detracting in any way from the value of this interesting book, one wonders why the electrocardiography in the chapter on coronary disease was not included in the general discussion of electrocardiography. Many of our old diagnostic signs of disease have been discarded in favor of sophisticated technology. However a book of this nature would have done well to include the timing of the occurrence of the femoral and radial arteries as a diagnostic point in coarctation of the aorta.

Dr. Gazes has succeeded in his task of presenting a ready reference book of cardiology. As such it could find an important place on the desk of any physician who has occasion to refresh his memory on the technical points of the discipline of cardiology.

January 15, 1977
Howard P. Kennedy, M.D.
Reviewer

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Earle C. Bradley Alfred J. Gay

March 18, 1977

Dear Editor:

On April 20, 1977, we will have our fourth Tufts Visiting Professor here as guest lecturer for the Department of Medicine. His name is H. William Harris, M.D., Director, Graduate Training Program, Chest Service, Bellevue Hospital Center, New York University Medical Center, 550 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Doctor Harris will participate in case presentations on the above date from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and then give a formal lecture on "Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis" from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Please include this information in your next issue of the Hampden Hippocrat. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Barbara Bilodeau
Secretary
Department of Medicine

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Annual Meeting of the Hampden District Medical Society

Tuesday, April 26, 1977

Symposium*	**5:30-6:30 P.M.** Meeting rooms to be announced in Newsletter 1) LEWIS E. BRAUERMAN, M.D., Chr. Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism — "Unusual Forms of Thyrotoxicosis." 2) ISREAL F. ABROMS, M.D. Assoc. Prof. Pediatrics — "Perinatal Neurological Injuries." 3) ARTHUR M. PAPPAS, M.D. Chr. Dept. Orthopedic Surgery — "Sport Medicine."
Social Hour	**6:30 P.M.**
Dinner	**7:00 P.M.**
Place	Storrowton Tavern Stagecoach Barn West Springfield, Massachusetts
Business Meeting	After Dinner
Program	Annual Reports Treasurer's Report Audit Report Presentation of Certificates to Fifty Year Members Presentation of Certificates to New Members Award Presentation to News Media Award Presentation to Attorney Novak Report of Nominating Committee — Dr. Memery

*ACCREDITATION: "As an organization accredited for continuing medical education, the Springfield Academy of Medicine certifies, that this continuing education offering meets the criteria for 1 credit hour in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association provided it is used and completed as designed."

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